FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parkersburg, West Virginia November 1, 2026
23th Sunday after Pentecost

The United Methodist Church's vision statement is: The UM Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. Our mission remains *"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*".

+Please stand, as able. ***Congregational responses are in bold print.***

Welcome/Announcements Karen Whitacre

Prelude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Raney

+Call to Worship Liturgist, Susie Waters

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.
As we gather to remember the saints who formed us in the faith, we give thanks for their living witnesses to God's love, showing us that:
We belong to God, and through God, we live as family in Christ, bound together by Love.
We give thanks for the influence of the saints in our lives who demonstrated God's love and saving grace, so that we could know in our bones that:
We belong to God, and through God, we are saved to love one another.
Come, let us worship God who blesses us with witnesses to divine love that we may be witnesses of Love with everyone we meet.
We come to worship God who chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as witnesses of Love in communion with the saints of every age. Amen.
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

+Opening Hymn *Rejoice in God's Saints* No. 708

Opening Prayer
God, our Teacher, please instruct us in the ways of humility and love. Help us to live in community with one another rather than in competition with each other. Give us your heart for serving our neighbor. Assure us of your abiding presence and release us from the hierarchies of this world. May your kingdom come with power and gentleness as we strive to live as embodied witnesses of the good news in Christ Jesus. Amen.
Adapted from Cheryl A. Lindsay on the Worship Ways website of the United Church of Christ at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-23a-november-5/.

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Litany of Remembrance
Living God, our Guide and Guardian, who sits on the throne and delivers us into eternal life, we give you thanks for the saints whose witness has shaped our lives who now rest in the shelter of your embrace. As we remember those saints who have died and entered glory during the last twelve months, we remember their witness to your love and grace with joy and gratitude.

Naming of those who have passed

Nancy Rebecca Owens	03-05-26	(John Chaney's Daughter)
Betty May Ballengee	06-18-26	(Aunt of Rebecca Crooks)
Kathryn R. Pennington	06-30-26	(Cousin of Rebecca Crooks)
Gary A. Parsons	07-05-26	(Member)
Mark H. Gaston	10-22-26	(Member)

We bless you for the life and love of these dear saints and rejoice that they have entered into the fullness of life in your presence. We also remember those saints who we hold in our hearts who have not been with us for some time, yet whose life and witness continue to form and shape us as your disciples. We honor them now by lifting their names aloud or in our hearts.

Congregation can now speak names aloud from where they are seated.

On this All Saints Sunday, we remember that we too are living saints, members of the family of God with all the saints of the past, the present, and the future. And so, we proclaim: **We are God's children, witnesses of God's word that is at work in us and in the saints who have gone before. Today and every day, may we put on Christ and live as saints who tend the poor, comfort the mourners, learn from the meek, affirm those who seek righteousness, offer mercy alongside the merciful, and work for peace with the peacemakers until Christ comes in final victory and we feast as the family of God at Christ's heavenly banquet. Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

Choral Anthem *Sine Nomine* arr. Rosenberg

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who Thee by faith before the world confessed Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might. Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight. Thou, in the darkness drear their one true Light. Alleuia! O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia!

Sermon Text Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon Pastor Shari

Holy Communion Page 12

Prayer

+Hymn *What Does the Lord Require of You?* TFWS 2174

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Break Thou the Bread of Life* arr. Hayes

+The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+Prayer of Thanksgiving

+Closing Hymn *O God, You Call for Justice* see insert

Blessing/Benediction

Postlude *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* arr. Kim

(Please be seated during this time of personal reflection.)

VISITORS: PLEASE FILL OUT A VISITOR CARD AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE. THEY ARE LOCATED ON THE BACK OF THE PEWS. **THANK YOU AND WELCOME!**

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 8

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 (UMH 799)
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Congregational Giving for 10-25-26	$ 2,800
Congregational Giving Y-T-D	$166,482
Actual expenses Y-T-D	$155,499

Other gifts: Pastor's Discretionary Fund $600

Attendance last week 40 Online 6

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

TODAY **PARKERSBURG CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL CONCERT**, here at First Church, 3 pm
Monday Circles Dinner/Meeting, F. Hall, 5:30 pm
Everyone is invited, see invitation in bulletin.
Tuesday ELECTION DAY
Wednesday (Girl Scouts, old Youth Room, 5-7 pm)
Thursday Handbell Practice, 6 pm
Choir Practice, 7 pm
Friday (AA Meeting, F. Hall, 7-9 pm)
Saturday Women's Zoom Meeting, 8 am

ITEMS THAT ARE IN ( ) ARE NOT CHURCH EVENTS; THEY ARE FOR GROUPS USING OUR FACILITY.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 15.

HANGING OF THE GREENS IS NOVEMBER 22.



PARKERSBURG CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT
TODAY 3 pm
HERE AT FIRST CHURCH

BLESSED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
Anne Poole Nov. 2
Dawn Sundquist Nov. 3
Evan Whitacre Nov. 8



and Best Wishes to our Newlyweds
Mr. and Mrs. Braden Hubler

Ginny Edwards' beautiful note cards with Christmas images will be available for purchase again this year! They come in a pack of all ten images for $15/pack. The money will go to the general Music Fund. To buy a pack, just contact Joan McDonald or Dawn Sundquist. All ten of the images are framed and hanging in the Assembly Room.



Everyone in the church is invited to a get-to-know-you activity "CIRCLES ALLY" on Monday evening, Nov. 2 at 5:30 pm for dinner and the Circles of the MOV meeting in our Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Candles—*Lighting candles is a devotional practice in which many millions of Christians the world over have found inspiration. Everyone is encouraged to light a candle and offer a prayer as we gather for worship. The candle will not be a substitute for the prayer of your heart, but an accompaniment. They are located to the left of the pulpit.*



Phone 304.428.0111

our website: https://www.firstumcparkersburg.org

Office Hours

Tuesday thru Thursday-9 am to 4 pm

Friday-9 am to noon

Church Staff

Pastor: Shari Dawn Stilgenbauer (cell #304.210.6380)

email: pastorsharidawn@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Cindy Lucas

Financial Secretary: Rebecca Crooks

Director of Music/Organist/Pianist/Handbell & Choir Director: Jimmy Sundquist

Custodian: Rob Bauer

Volunteer Staff: Deborah Shaffer, Certified Lay Minister

Those Serving Us Today

Liturgist: Susie Waters Acolyte: Allison Poole

Greeters/Ushers: Ed and Alease Goe

Communion Servers: Dawn Sundquist

Dr. Bob & Sarabeth Harris

Communion Coordinator: Bev Brannock

Prayer Needs

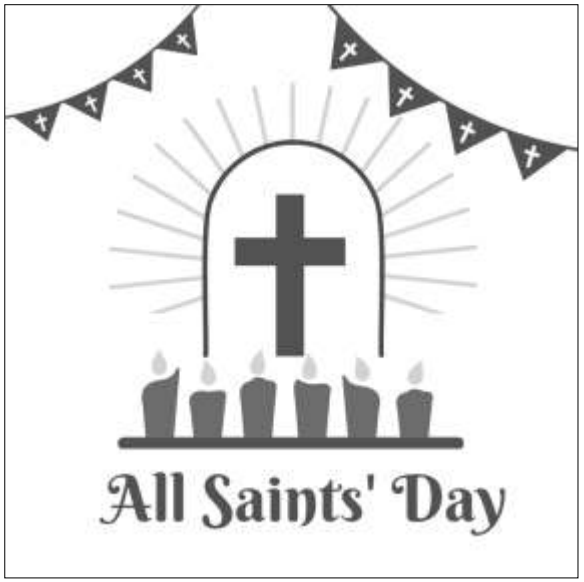
AMERICA	FIRST UMC
Carol Power	Lee Carrico
Charlie & Marilyn Casto	Margaret Stemple
Cierra Hammond	Maria Hamlin
Cindy & Ron Ferrell	Mark Gaston family
Connie Twyman	Mike Brannock
David Taliaferro	Nathan Corathers/family
Drue Farmer	Pam Corathers
Jan Davis	Raymond Myers
Jim Wright	Scot Harper
John Harthaway	Sharon Hennen
Judy Osbourne	Tish Oney
Larry Clinton	

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Pastor Shari Stilgenbauer

Parkersburg, WV

November 1, 2026



OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

LIGHTHOUSE Congregation

West Virginia Conference The United Methodist Church